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AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A message for communication among network elements, the message comprising:

at least one media identifier including a first section and a second section, wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved by a network element, and the second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when the first section identifies the stored media file.

2. (original) The message of claim 2, wherein the stored media file includes one of an announcement and a non-announcement type media file, the non-announcement type media file including media other than announcements and the announcement type media file including an announcement.

3. (original) The message of claim 2, wherein the second section includes a first group of bits identifying whether an announcement or non-announcement type media file is identified by the at least one media identifier.

4. (original) The message of claim 3, wherein the second section includes a second group of bits, and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the second group of bits identifies whether an announcement in the identified announcement type media file is interruptible or uninterruptible.

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5. (original) The message of claim 4, wherein the second group of bits identifies whether an interruptible announcement is interruptible with one of DTMF, speech and both DTMF and speech.

6. (original) The message of claim 3, wherein when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the first group of bits also identifying whether the announcement is a menu item.

7. (original) The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits, and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the third group of bits identifying a menu offset used to determine the next announcement to play to a caller.

8. (original) The message of claim 7, wherein the at least one media identifier includes a plurality of media identifiers, and the menu offset is used to identify one of the plurality of media identifiers.

9. (original) The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits, and when a non-announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the third group of bits identifies one of a media file format and an action item code.

10. (original) The message of claim 1, wherein the media file includes one of video, fax, music, data and an announcement.

11. (original) The message of claim 1, wherein the plurality of network elements include network elements in a telecommunications network.

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12. (original) The message of claim 11, wherein the telecommunications network includes an intelligent network, and the plurality of network elements include an intelligent peripheral and a service control point.

13. (currently amended) A system available to provide a multimedia service, comprising:

a first network element transmitting a message, the message including at least one media identifier identifying a media file and including a first section and a second section, wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file and an action item, and the second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when the first section identifies the stored media file; and

a second network element receiving the message and connectable to a database storing the media file.

14. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the first and second network elements are included in an intelligent network providing multimedia services.

15. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the message identifies one of an announcement, video, music, fax and data.

16. (original) A message for communicating a plurality of menu items to a network element, the message comprising:

a plurality of media identifiers, each media identifier identifying a menu item; and
at least one of the plurality of media identifiers including a menu offset used to identify another one of the plurality of media identifiers in response to a user input.

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17. (original) The message of claim 16, wherein each menu item includes one of an announcement and an action item.

18. (currently amended) The message of claim 16, wherein each media identifier includes a first section and a second section; and wherein:

the first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved by a network element and an action item performed by the network element; and

the second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when the first section identifies the stored media file.

19. (original) A method of processing a message for communicating between network elements, the message having a format including a plurality of media identifiers, each media identifier identifying one of a media file and an action item, the method comprising steps of:

receiving the message and storing the message in memory;

decoding a first media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers, the first media identifier including a menu offset;

receiving a user input; and

selecting a second media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers to decode based upon the user input and the menu offset.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein each of said plurality of media identifiers identifies a menu item for a menu.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first media identifier identifies an announcement prompting the user to select one of a plurality of the menu items and further

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comprising a step of playing the announcement to the user after decoding the first media identifier.

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